

Docket No. 00N-1396/OOD-1598  
FDA Commissioner, Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

I want to **comment** on the FDA's new Proposed Rules on Genetically Engineered Foods (GEF). I do not support the **voluntary** labeling proposal. I want to **know what I am eating, in fact, my choice** at present is to avoid all GEF. Consumers have a right to know whether our food has **been genetically** engineered. For the past several years, without our knowledge, Americans have been **fed** increasing amounts of food that has been genetically altered. This is appalling.

In Europe, due to consumer outrage, there is now mandatory labeling of products containing GEF. I want the same protection **and** rights enjoyed by Europeans. Scientists can be found to debate the safety and dangers of GEF. Studies have shown that **there can** be allergic responses. Toxicity, lowered nutritional value, **compromising** immune responses and irreversible changes to the **environment have been cited as concerns** associated with genetically engineered organisms. Certainly it is true that respected experts have convincing arguments for both sides of this issue. With that in **mind**, isn't it **dangerous** for a democracy when **consumers** are kept in the dark and not informed about what is in the foods they purchase? **Again, let me reiterate, I have a right to know whether the food I buy contains GEF.**

Additionally, I understand **that** presently GEF are not tested by the FDA for food safety, and genetically engineered organisms don't undergo pre-market testing by the FDA for their environmental **impact**. This work is left to the companies introducing the products. FDA's proposal for companies to merely **voluntarily consult** with FDA **concerning the safety of their foods and products** is **totally** \*unacceptable to me. These **patented** GE products are not identical to their non-GE relatives. This has been the flawed argument used to avoid testing.

**Please amend your New Rules and Guidance on Genetically Engineered Foods and require:**

1. extensive mandatory pre-market safety testing of GEF.
2. mandatory labeling of all GEF and ingredients.
3. mandatory pre-market **environmental** review of genetically modified organisms.

Please place a moratorium on any new GEF and organisms until long term studies show the ones currently on the market now are indeed safe for human health and the environment.

I have been an unwitting guinea pig for far too long. The current proposal of New Rules and Guidance on Genetically Engineered Foods is totally unacceptable to me. Please ● ake my comments into consideration and revise your New Rules.

Sincerely,  
*Stephen M. Wistar*

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